

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program  
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,  
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

**Subregion:** NORTH-CENTRAL **County:** PLUMAS

**Applicant:** SIERRA VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Project Title:** NORTH FORK FEATHER RIVER NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PROJECT

**Reference Number:** SNC 070262

**PROJECT SCOPE**

This project would create a coordination framework through the Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) to obtain, consolidate, and disseminate GIS data identifying the locations and extent of certain noxious weeds on the North Fork of the Feather River in Sierra Valley. The primary invasive weed of concern is the Perennial Pepperweed. Invasive noxious weeds, particularly Pepperweed, are a growing threat to watershed habitat in the northern Sierra Nevada. The choking out of native plants adversely impacts wildlife and agriculture. This project will provide both direct support and an institutional model to protect watershed quality in this and other watersheds.

It is estimated that 5,000 acres of watershed will be mapped within the grant period. The project also contains an outreach and education component utilizing a newsletter, web content, and news releases, plus three noxious weed education events throughout the grant period. Activities initiated within this project include:

- Establish regular communication, including meetings, between all participants in Plumas-Sierra Noxious Weeds Management Group (P-S WEEDS);
- Create a central coordinating position to consolidate and disseminate all North Fork Feather River Watershed weed mapping data;
- Maintain and update a GIS database for mapping of noxious weeds;
- Identify public and stakeholder education and outreach needs, and identify strategies for education, including three education events during the grant period;
- Develop environmental documentation for CEQA/NEPA compliance (i.e. exempt status) for future treatment implementation;
- Use coordinator as a contact point for renewed action of P-S WEEDS to:
  - develop a monitoring plan for tracking noxious weed populations and identifying treatment areas
  - establish a weed control demonstration area to compare weed control methods
  - develop regional-specific noxious weed informational materials for landowners
  - provide additional education activities as identified in the needs assessment process.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Host Plumas-Sierra WEEDS meetings	quarterly
Obtain existing GIS data from stakeholders	May – Sept. 2008
Consolidate GIS data	June-Sept. 2008
Create and disseminate GIS data sets to interested parties	Sept. 2008 – April 2009
Perform field work to add target species population data to GIS data	May 2008 – March 2010
Maintain and update GIS data	ongoing
Implement three education events to present results and inform people about methods for noxious weed avoidance and eradication	Sept. 2008 – March 2010
Produce semiannual newsletter, web content, news releases	May 2008 – March 2010
<b>Final Report/Final Payment Request</b>	<b>April 1, 2010</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Materials and supplies (field equipment)	4,250
Project Administration	2,000
Publications and advertising	5,560
Service contracts for GIS data collection and mapping, field work, and outreach activities	33,200
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 45,010</b>

### Letters of Support:

- USDA National Forest Service
- Plumas-Sierra Counties Department of Agriculture

### Recommendation:

Staff recommends funding the project at the requested amount of \$45,010.

## Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: **NORTH FORK FEATHER RIVER WATERSHED NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PROJECT :** The Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) proposes a planning and mapping project to address a range of noxious weed management issues that affect the watershed function of the North Fork Feather River (NFFR) Watershed, focusing on the Sierra Valley area. The encroachment Perennial pepperweed is of particular concern to land managers in the NFFR watershed because of its ability to overwhelm large expanses of wetland, riparian, and wet meadow ecosystems in a relatively short time.

Present and potential effects of invasive plant species on ecological and agricultural resources of the NFFR are widely recognized, but coordinated local action has not yet materialized. SVRCD, in cooperation with the Plumas-Sierra Noxious Weeds Management Group (P-S WEEDS) and the Office of the Plumas County Agricultural Commissioner, proposes a noxious weed management project that would provide sufficient resources to staff a noxious weed coordination position and implement various noxious weed management efforts currently underway in the NFFR watershed. P-S WEEDS organizational members include a long list of state and Federal agencies, private land managers, and citizen's groups.

Under this proposed program, the following would be accomplished with SVRCD serving as lead agency and fiscal agent:

1. Regular communication and meetings between all participants in P-S WEEDS.
2. A central office would be designated for the purpose of consolidating all existing, new and future NFFR weed mapping data, and a new GIS data base of weed population information would be developed that is consistent with data bases maintained by Calif. Dept. of Food & Agriculture and other statewide agencies.
3. A Monitoring Plan for tracking weed populations, effects of treatments, etc. would be developed by P-S WEEDS, with initial implementation by the coordinator.
4. Education and outreach needs and strategies would be identified.
5. Environmental documentation for CEQA/NEPA compliance would be initiated for noxious weed treatment strategies on state and Federal lands.

The proposed project would provide direct benefit to various SNC program goals:

1. Conservation of living resources; 2. Preservation of working landscapes; 3. Protection and restoration of public lands; 4. Local economic assistance, and Protection of Water Quality. Indirect benefits to Natural Disaster preparedness (though fuels reductions) and tourism might also be realized.

A total of \$45,010.00 is requested (\$4,250.00 for materials & supplies, \$7560.00 for operations, \$33,200.00 for contracts). An additional contribution of cash and in-kind value of \$18,400.00 is expected, creating a total project budget of \$63,410.00